



Montana Correctional Enterprises

350 Conley Lake Rd.
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Gayle Lambert, Administrator

Phone: (406) 846-1320 ext. 2373 Cell: (406) 560-0162
Fax (406) 846-2957

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gayle Lambert, MCE Administrator 406-846-1320 x 2373 or cell: 560-2217

MSP Ranch land reopened to hunters

On Aug. 20, 2007, Department of Corrections Director Mike Ferriter issued a proclamation closing access to Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) Ranch land, in accordance with Executive Order No. 15-2007, due to high fire danger.

The hot and dry conditions precipitating the land access closure have abated and MCE officials consider it safe to allow access to MCE Ranch land for limited use allowed under MSP policy 2.1.3, Land Access.

Effective Saturday, Sept. 22, 2007, designated MCE Ranch land will be open to hunters who have applied for and been issued land-use permits for the purpose of bow hunting on MCE Ranch land, within the restrictions of policy MSP 2.1.3. In addition, motorized game retrieval will be allowed for both bow hunters below the power line and rifle hunters above the power line, in compliance with restrictions in MSP policy 2.1.3.

Bow hunters are reminded that all access will be allowed only with a valid MCE land access permit and through the MSP checkpoint location, utilizing the designated parking areas.

Hunters also should remember that, if an animal is harvested and motorized game retrieval is desired, the animal first must be dragged to the nearest designated road. Hunters must then proceed to their vehicles. Bow hunters then can drive to the checkpoint location and a staff member will be called for the retrieval. Rifle hunters must first secure their weapons off prison property. They can then proceed to the checkpoint location for motorized game retrieval.

The Department of Corrections thanks all hunters for their patience, cooperation and understanding during the time of high fire danger.